(b) if so, the names of the States where availability of water has decreased during the last three years; and

(c) the extent to which such water shortage has been found?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF.SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) No specific trend for decrease in the agricultural production rate has been observed during the last three years. The total yield of food grains production for the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 are 174.77 million tonnes, 213.46 million tonnes and 204.61 million tonnes respectively.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Completion of irrigation projects

†1613. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance given by NABARD and Central Government to Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar for starting irrigation projects and completing the incomplete projects during the last three years;

(b) the names of these projects;

(c) the estimated and actual potential of irrigation of these projects; and

(d) the names of the projects out of these completed by 31st October, 2005 alongwith the details of the cost incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), through its programme, namely, Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), has been assisting the State Governments in taking up and completing the irrigation projects. The details of amount released under RIDF during the last three years to the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are given in the Annexure [*See* appendix 207. Annexure No. 6].

The Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to States for such approved irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in the next four financial years and which are not receiving any other form of assistance (NABARD, external aid, etc.) can be

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

considered for inclusion under AIBP. Components of projects not receiving other assistance can also be included under AIBP. The details of CLA/ grant released under AIBP during the last three years to the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 207, Annexure No. 6]

(b) to (d) The details of the projects taken up under RIDF during the last three years in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar and projects completed out of these by 31st October, 2005 are also given in Annexure and the details of those covered under AIBP in these States during the last three years are included in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 207, Annexure No. 6]

Inter-linking of rivers

1614. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inter-linking of rivers project has been conceptualized not to meet domestic water needs of the people but to meet the demand for growing commercial agricultural activities;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the technological aspect of the river-linking concept was based on the knowledge of the European rivers and not on the realities related to rivers in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The ILR Project envisages to meet domestic water needs of rural and urban population in the enroute link commands/areas on priority, in addition to agriculture requirements.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The river-linking concept has emanated from the ground realities of in equal distribution of water resources among various river basins in the country causing recurring floods and droughts.

Study of river linking project

1615. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the project inter-linking of rivers may affect the fresh water supply to Bay of Bengal and the salinity conditions which would in turn affect the monsoon and the economy of the country;